AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine Volume XI Issue 1 2010

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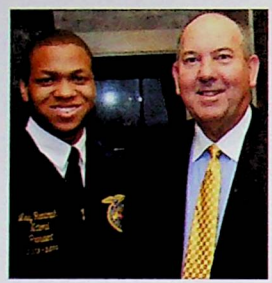

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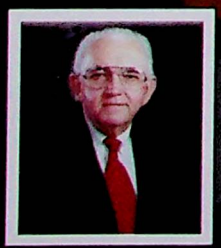

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State Director,
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Vol. XI Issue 1 2010

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South Carolina – The "Tastier" Peach State

History of the Peach

South Carolina's favorite fruit, Prunus persica---the Peach---was first cultivated in China over 4000 years ago. After migrating to Europe via Persia, the Spaniards brought the peach to the Americas in the 1500s. Native American tribes were found cultivating peach trees when the English established colonies in the Carolinas.

Beginning of the Peach Industry in South Carolina

Commercial production and regional marketing of peaches began in the 1850s and the first interstate rail shipment of South Carolina peaches was made in the 1870s.

While Georgia dominated the early growth of the industry, many South Carolina growers began replacing row crops with peach trees in earnest during the 1920s. Peach production in the state increased five fold from 1924 to 1941 and in 1946 surpassed Georgia for the first time. In 1948, South Carolina even out-produced California to lead all states in total peach production. Spartanburg County alone had over three million peach trees and more that 240 peach packing facilities in 1951.

South Carolina's Rank in National Peach Production

Peach production peaked in South Carolina in 1984 with a crop of over 480,000 tons. Due to a variety of factors, production has declined but the state remains the second largest producer of peaches, behind California, and producing and marketing approximately one fourth of all the country's fresh peaches.

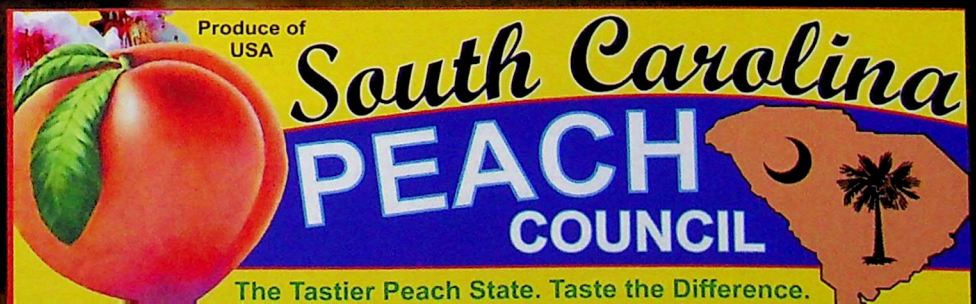
Peaches and the South Carolina Economy

An important segment of South Carolina's agricultural industry, the production of peaches grosses approximately $40 million annually to the state's economy. That does not take into account the money expended by the peach industry with related industries such as trucking, equipment purchase and maintenance, paper products, chemicals and marketing which is estimated at $30 million annually.

Why is South Carolina the "Tastier" Peach State?

South Carolina peaches are the tastier peach because Mother Nature works hand-in-hand with the producer. Under careful observation, South Carolina growers allow their peaches to ripen naturally on the tree under the summer sky. Combined with hot days, humid nights, slightly acidic soils and modern technology such as drip irrigation, these proficient agriculturalists produce the sweetest, juiciest and best-tasting peaches on the market.

Assistance in preparation of this article was provided by Amy H. London, Market Specialist-Peach Industry, SC Department of Agriculture, Columbia, SC, and the SC Peach Council web site.



South Carolinians Receive National FFA Awards

The National FFA Organization annually recognizes a select group of exceptional individuals from throughout the nation with the Honorary American FFA Degree. It is the highest award presented by the 507,000 member National FFA Organization to friends and supporters of Agricultural Education and the FFA.

Four South Carolinians were presented the coveted award during a nationally televised ceremony at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October 2009 and one was presented in Columbia, SC, during National FFA Week 2010.

Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher, Superintendent of Greenville County Schools, presides over the largest school district in the state and the record number of Agricultural Education departments and Agricultural Educators;

J. Allen Williams of Wagener, SC, Agricultural Education instructor at Wagener-Salley High School and immediate past president of the SC Agricultural Educators Association;

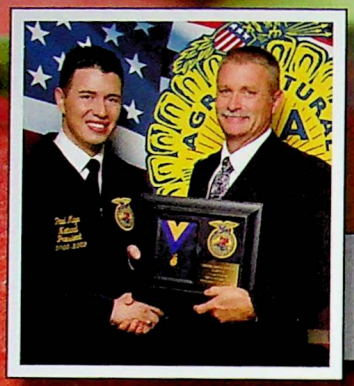
Harmon Cooper, Jr. of Johnsonville, SC, recently retired Agricultural Educator at Johnsonville High School after a successful 33 year career, and state certified career and technology center and high school administrator;

Stephen E. Sanderson of Dalzell, SC, a former Agricultural Education instructor, now serving as Associate State Director of Agricultural Education with Clemson University.

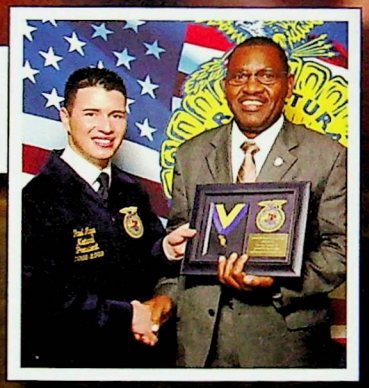
Harry M. DuBose of Myrtle Beach, SC, a former president of the SC Agricultural Educators Association and recently retired Agricultural Educator at Carolina Forest High School, was presented the award at the SC FFA-sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Day Ceremony at the State Capitol by National FFA President Levy Randolph.

Dr. Phillip M. Fravel, a former high school Agricultural Educator in Virginia, now serving as a faculty member in the Agricultural Education Program at Clemson University and advisor to the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Organization.

National FFA President ***Paul Moya*** *congratulates* ***Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher***

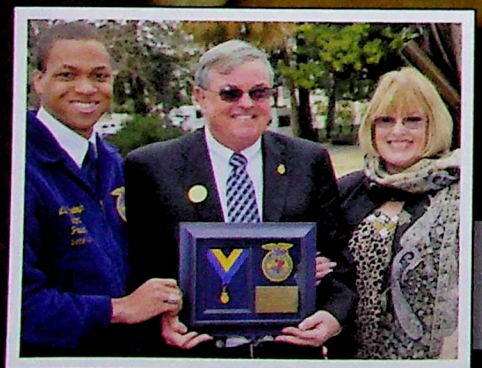


National FFA President ***Paul Moya*** *congratulates* ***J. Allen Williams***

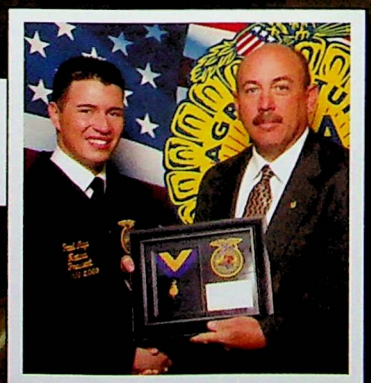


National FFA President ***Paul Moya*** *congratulates* ***Harmon Cooper, Jr.***

National FFA President ***Paul Moya*** *congratulates* ***Stephen E. Sanderson***

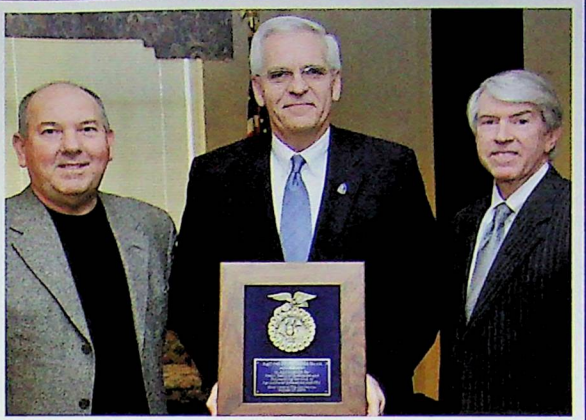


2009-10 National FFA President ***Levy Randolph*** *congratulates* ***Harry DuBose*** *and wife,* ***Gayle.***



National FFA President ***Paul Moya*** *congratulates* ***Dr. Philip M. Fravel***

AgFirst Farm Credit Bank Receives National FFA Award



*AgFirst Bank Executive Vice President **Tom Welsh** (left) with **Dr. W. Dwight Armstrong** and **Andy Lowrey**, President and CEO of AgFirst Bank.*

The AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, headquartered in Columbia, SC, was presented the National FFA Organization's Distinguished Service Citation Award by Dr. W. Dwight Armstrong, chief operating officer of the 507,000 member organization of agricultural education students, during a meeting of the board of directors of the bank on February 17, 2010. Dr. Armstrong came from Indianapolis, Indiana, to personally make the presentation and thank the Bank officials for their outstanding support of the FFA.

The AgFirst Farm Credit Bank and its 22 agricultural credit associations located in 15 states and Puerto Rico is a cooperative lender that provides credit and financially-related services to 80,000 customers including farmers, ranchers, other agribusinesses and country homeowners. The bank is widely recognized as a strong financial resource for rural America with assets of more than $32 billion.

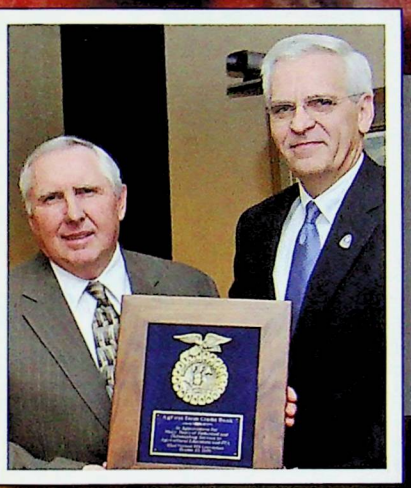
The bank and the associations support the FFA at the local, state and national level with an annual contribution in exccess of $250,000. Additionally, the Bank and its associations provide professionals to partner with the FFA and Agricultural Education at the local, regional and state levels.

AgFirst Bank and the two associations in South Carolina co-sponsor the publication of South Carolina's Agricultural Education magazine, AGRIBIZ. The bank has provided office space and other amenities for the state director of the SC FFA Office of Public Affairs for fifteen years.

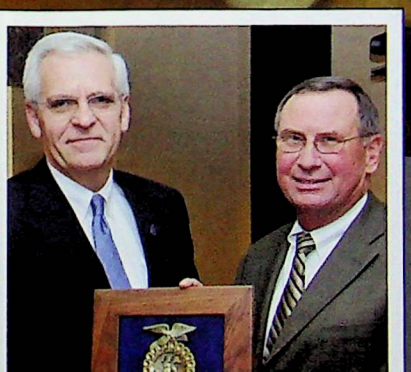
Bank President and Chief Executive Officer Andy Lowrey, an FFA alumnus from Roberta, Georgia, and Executive Vice President Tom Welsh, an FFA alumnus from Bishopville, SC, are recipients of the Honorary American FFA Degree.

In 2008, Mr. Lowrey and Mr. Welsh invited former National FFA President Beau Williamson of Clovis, California, to address their multi-state annual conference in Ashville, NC. Beau's address was professionally videotaped for distribution to farm credit associations throughout the 15 states and Puerto Rico.

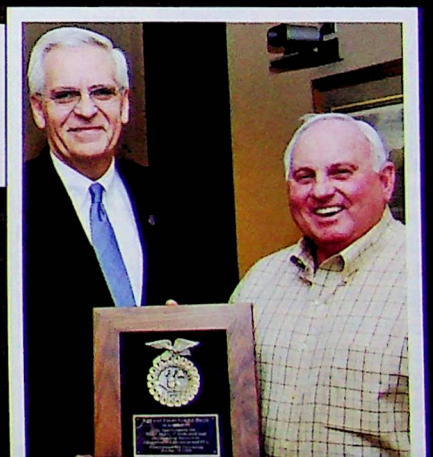
John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association nominated AgFirst Bank for the award which was supported by the SC FFA Association Board and approved by the National FFA Board of Directors.



*AgFirst Farm Credit Bank Board Chairman **Paul House** (left) of Nokesville, Virginia, is congratulated by **Dr. W. Dwight Armstrong**, National FFA Organization Chief Operating Officer.*



*Dr. W. Dwight Armstrong (left) congratulates AgFirst Bank Board member **Jim May** of Waynesburg, Kentucky, who attended the National FFA Convention where the award was announced.*



*Dr. W. Dwight Armstrong (left) with AgFirst Bank Board member **Gene Merritt** of Easley, SC, a former State FFA president in South Carolina.*

SC FFA Members Awarded American FFA Degree

Six South Carolina FFA members were recent recipients of the coveted American FFA Degree which is the highest award available to FFA members by the National FFA Organization. A select number of outstanding FFA members from throughout the nation who excel in academics, leadership ability and supervised agricultural experience programs are awarded the program each year. Those from South Carolina include:

William Nelson of Clinton, SC, a member of the Laurens FFA Chapter and former state FFA vice president, received the award during a nationally televised ceremony at the 2009 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is a student at Clemson University majoring in Agricultural Education.

Matthew Adams of Hamer, SC, a member of the Latta FFA Chapter and former state FFA vice president, received the award last fall. He is a student at Francis Marion University majoring in Education Leadership.

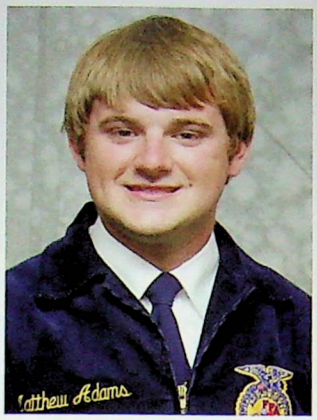
Caroline Sherard of Abbeville, SC, a member of the Abbeville FFA Chapter and a former state FFA vice president, was presented the award at the State Capitol in Columbia, SC, on February 24, 2010, by National FFA President Levy Randolph of Hemet, California. Caroline is a sophomore at Winthrop University majoring in Early Childhood Education.

Will Amick of Lexington, SC, a member of the Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter and former state FFA vice president, was presented the award during a special ceremony at the State Capitol on February 24, 2010, by National FFA President Levy Randolph. Will is a sophomore at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia, majoring in Turf Management.

Johnathon E. Hammonds of Cheraw, SC, a member of the Cheraw FFA Chapter, received the award earlier this year. He is a student at Horry-Georgetown Technical College majoring in Sports Turf Management and serving as an intern at the SC FFA Leadership Center.

Jacob Fravel, a native of Stephens City, Virginia, is a junior at Clemson University majoring in Agricultural Education and serving on the executive committee of the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Organization.

William Nelson



Matthew Adams

*National FFA President **Levy Randolph** congratulates **Caroline Sherard***

*National FFA President **Levy Randolph** congratulates **Will Amick***

Johnathon Hammonds

Jacob B. Fravel

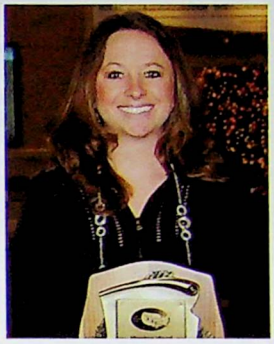
SC Agricultural Educators Receive National Awards

Jeremy Brooks, agricultural education instructor at Midland Valley High School, Graniteville, SC, was named recipient of the *Outstanding Adult Agricultural Education Program* award in the southern states region and one of the top six leaders in the nation.

As a result of this honor, Mr. Brooks was awarded a two-year lease on a Toyota Tundra truck by Toyota USA. The truck was presented to Mr. Brooks at the SC FFA Celebration Luncheon at the SC State Fair on February 24, 2010. (*More details on page 9*)

Meghan Wood, agricultural education instructor at Aiken High School, and **Aaron Miles**, agricultural education instructor at Latta High School, were among 47 educators throughout the nation to receive the *Teachers Turn the Key Award* which is designed to recognize outstanding early career agricultural educators. Meghan and Aaron received a scholarship to defray their expenses to attend the National Association of Agricultural Educators Association conference and an engraved plaque. The recognition program is sponsored by Dodge as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

***Jeremy Brooks** (center) is congratulated by **Sally Shomo**, 2009 president of the National Association of Agricultural Educators, and **Michael Rouse**, corporate vice president, Toyota Motor Sales, USA.*



Meghan Wood

***Aaron Miles** is congratulated by **Sally Shomo**, president of the National Association of Agricultural Educators.*

Earle Attends Education Policy Seminar in Washington

Pat Earle

Pat Earle, Agricultural Education instructor at McBee High School, attended the National Career and Technology Education Policy Seminar in Washington, DC, in March, as a Legislative Liaison between South Carolina and the National Agricultural Educators Association.

A major effort of the seminar participants was to help national policymakers understand that Career and Technology Education is the answer to many of the key challenges facing the country, including drop-out rates, postsecondary access and completion, the skills gap, unemployment and more.

While in Washington, Mr. Earle visited with Congressman John Spratt and a staff executive to Congressman James Clyburn to encourage their support of increased federal support for career and technical education and workforce development training programs.

Williams Is President of National Agricultural Organization

JoAnn Williams

JoAnn Williams of Britton's Neck, SC, was elected president of the National Young Farmer Educational Association (NYEA) at a conference in Mobile, Alabama, in December 2009.

An active member of the Britton's Neck Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter, Mrs. Williams has played a major role in the success of the state and national Young Farmer and Agribusiness organizations for many years.

A life member of the NYEA, Mrs. Williams has assisted in planning and implementing National Institutes in Charleston, SC; Orlando, Florida; and Tucson, Arizona. As secretary to the organization in 2008, Mrs. Williams co-chaired the national institute held in Baltimore, Maryland. She will preside over the 2010 national conference in Monterey, California in December.

Mrs. Williams is married to Edsel Williams, a long time member and officer of the South Carolina and National Young Farmer Education Association.

SC FFA Members Attend Legislators Appreciation Event

Hundreds of FFA members from throughout South Carolina arrived in Columbia, SC, on Wednesday, February 24, to visit legislators, participate in the SC FFA-sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Ceremony at the State Capitol and enjoy the FFA Celebration Luncheon at the State Fair Grounds. They were accompanied by advisors, school administrators, parents, FFA alumni and other supporters.

The day began with an Executive Breakfast for state FFA officers **Kerry Lee Cox**, **Anna Kate Waters**, **Kelsey Bridges** and **Lena Freeman**, National FFA President **Levy Randolph**, Clemson University Collegiate FFA officers, Clemson University Agricultural Education faculty and staff, SC Agricultural Council President **Chalmers Mikel** and John W. Parris, state director of FFA public affairs. The breakfast was sponsored by the SC Agricultural Council and Mr. Parris.

Following breakfast, the state officers and the National FFA President joined hundreds of other FFA members to visit state legislators. The students were also introduced to members of the House of Representatives while in session.

The Appreciation Ceremony began at 11:00 AM on the north steps of the State Capitol with the Presentation of Colors by the Manning FFA Color Guard and the singing of the National Anthem by a Manning FFA member.

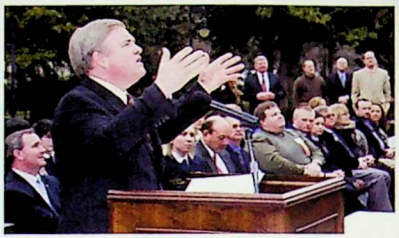
State Senator **Daniel B. Verdin**, chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, welcomed the group to the State Capitol and joined Representative **Jeffrey Duncan**, chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, in presenting to the state officers a Concurrent Resolution adopted by the General Assembly commending FFA members, advisors and FFA Alumni for their interest in maintaining a viable agriculture through education, leadership and technology.

National FFA President **Levy Randolph** presented the American FFA Degree to former state officers **Caroline Sherard** and **Will Amick**. He also presented the Honorary American Degree to retired Agricultural Educator **Harry M. DuBose**, from Myrtle Beach.

The Ceremony adjourned following the singing of the patriotic hymn, *God Bless America,* led by Senator Verdin.

FFA members assemble at the State Capitol for the Appreciation Ceremony

*State Representative **Jeffrey Duncan** presented a framed copy of a Concurrent Resolution approved by the SC General Assembly to the State FFA Officer team and National FFA President **Levy Randolph**. The Resolution commends South Carolina FFA members and Alumni for their interest in a viable agriculture industry in our state.*



*State Senator **Daniel B. Verdin** welcomes FFA members and guests to the State Capitol.*

*State FFA Secretary **Anna Kate Waters** (left), National FFA President **Levy Randolph**; State Representative **Phillip Owens**, Chairman of the House Education Committee; State FFA President **Kerry Lee Cox**; State FFA Vice Presidents **Lena Freeman** and **Kelsey Bridges**.*

*National FFA President **Levy Randolph** (left), **Chalmers Mikell**, president of the SC Agricultural Council; SC FFA President **Kerry Lee Cox** and **Waylon Priester**, president of the Clemson Collegiate FFA Organization, at the Executive Breakfast.*

*Manning FFA Color Guard members **Thomas Matthews**, **Amanda Rhodus**, **Tyler Hale** and **Sr'Quena Witherspoon** Present the Colors as **Shereka Williams** sings the National Anthem.*

SC FFA Celebration Luncheon

Dr. Thomas R. Scott addressed the FFA Luncheon

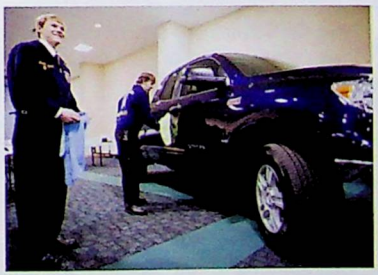
Amanda Nichols

*State Representative **Roland Smith** (left) presents **Jeremy Brooks** a Resolution of Commendation adopted by the SC House of Representatives.*

*Jeremy Brooks (left) accepts the keys to the Toyota truck from **Pat Center**, Toyota Southeast Sales Manager.*

*State FFA Officers **Kelsey Bridges** (left) with **Kerry Lee Cox**, **Lena Freeman** and **Anna Kate Waters** celebrate a successful public relations event for the FFA and Agricultural Education.*

The SC State Fair promoted National



Midland Valley FFA members admire the new truck

Following the ceremony at the State Capitol, more than 500 FFA members and friends traveled to the Moore Building on the State Fair Grounds for an FFA Celebration Luncheon catered by Shealy's Bar-B-Que Restaurant of Batesburg-Leesville, SC.

The group was welcomed by Ms. **Nancy Smith**, Associate General Manager of the State Fair, who thanked the FFA members and advisors for their support and participation in the agricultural competitions at the fair each year.

Dr. **Thomas R. Scott**, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University, praised the students for their interest in a career in the science, business or technology of agriculture. He encouraged them to enroll in an agricultural degree program at Clemson upon graduation from high school.

Ms. **Amanda Nichols** of Saluda, president-elect of the SC Association of Agricultural Educators, announced that Midland Valley Agricultural Educator **Jeremy Brooks** had been named the Outstanding Adult Agricultural Education Program Advisor in the southern states for 2009 and introduced **Pat Center**, Toyota Southeast Sales Manager, for a special presentation.

Mr. Center reported that Toyota Motor Sales was providing Mr. Brooks with a free two-year lease on a Toyota Tundra Double Cab V8 truck as a result of his national recognition and presented him the keys to the vehicle which was prominently displayed adjacent the head table.

State Representative **Roland Smith** of Warrenville, SC, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, presented Mr. Brooks a Resolution of Commendation adopted by the House of Representatives for his accomplishments and thanked Toyota officials for their support of Agricultural Education.

The featured speaker at the Luncheon was National FFA President **Levy Randolph** on leave from California State University at Fresno while serving as a national officer. He challenged the students to strive for excellence in academics while developing leadership skills necessary for a successful career in twenty-first century agriculture.

The State Legislators Appreciation Day and Celebration Luncheon was planned and coordinated by **John W. Parris**, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA organization with assistance from Ms. **Brenda Baldwin** with the State Office of Agricultural Education.

A portion of the cost of the Luncheon was underwritten by the **SC State Fair** and Mr. Parris.

SC Young Farmer Agribusiness Convention

The annual convention of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association was held January 8-9, 2010, at the Francis Marion Hotel in downtown Charleston, SC. The event got underway Friday afternoon with a Harbor Cruise followed by a dinner at the hotel.

Activities on Saturday began with a sunrise breakfast and business session followed by a series of educational presentations on Agricultural Issues, Land Trusts and the Charleston Tea Plantation. Presenters in the Agricultural Issues session are shown at right.

An Awards Luncheon program included remarks by State Senator Daniel B. Verdin, chairman of the State Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; Dr. Thomas R. Scott, interim dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University; and JoAnn Williams, president of the National Young Farmer Educational Association.

The Saturday evening banquet was highlighted by the recognition of outstanding chapters, presidents, advisors, farmers and agribusinesses.

Amanda Lutz of Chester, SC, a member of the Chester Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter and an FFA alumna, was named state winner of the Outstanding Agribusiness Award by the association and presented an engraved plaque and cash award by the Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank who sponsors the award in concert with the association.

Mrs. Lutz and her husband, Herby, own and operate Her-Man Jerseys located at Sunny Day Farm. Through her quality management practices, sound genetic decisions and embryo transfer work, they are marketing superior genetic cattle to dairymen across the country at an average selling price of $5000.

Kip Beam, Agricultural Education instructor at Chester Technology Center, serves as the professional advisor to the local young farmer and agribusiness organization.

James L. (Jay) Fanning III of Neeses, SC, was named the Outstanding Farmer in SC by the association and presented an engraved plaque and cash award by Karen Beasley, regional vice president of AgSouth Farm Credit, who sponsors the award in concert with the agricultural education organization.

Mr. Fanning, a third generation farmer and FFA alumnus, farms 140 acres of peanuts, 120 acres of corn, 100 acres of cotton and 100 acres of soybeans. Modern farm equipment includes a new Unverferth Strip-Till subsoiler, a set of conservation tillage planters and a T & L Center Pivot system.

Barry Hawkins, Agricultural Education instructor at Edisto High School, serves as the professional advisor to the local young farmer and agribusiness chapter.

*Dr. **Laurie C. Lawson** (left), Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency, Columbia, SC; State Senator **Daniel B. Verdin**, Chairman, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; **Stephanie Barnes Widmann**, Sales Manager, Walter P. Rawl and Sons, Inc.; State Commissioner of Agriculture **Hugh Weathers**; and Dr. **George Askew**, Chief Operating Officer, Clemson University Experiment Station.*

State Officer Team for 2010

*Seated (left to right) Vice President **Chris Bradham**, Bishopville; President **Wes Ulmer**, Lodge; President-elect **Jeremy Holtzclaw**, Iva; and Past President **Michael Nance**, McConnells. Standing (left to right) Vice President **Antron Williams**, Rowesville; Vice President **JEB Wilson**, Chester and Vice President **Tim Kelly**, Iva.*

***JEB Wilson** (left) of Chester, vice president of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, presents the Outstanding Agribusiness Award to **Amanda S. Lutz**. **Kip Beam**, Agricultural Education instructor and local chapter advisor, is at right.*

*AgSouth Farm Credit Vice President **Karen Baxley**, **James L. Fanning III** and **Barry Hawkins**, Agricultural Education instructor and advisor to the local chapter.*

South Carolina Young Awards and

Outstanding Agribusiness
Amanda S. Lutz
Chester Chapter
Sponsor
Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank

Outstanding Farmer
James L. Fanning III
Edisto Chapter
Sponsor
AgSouth Farm Credit

Outstanding Advisor
Beth W. Tolson
Lee County Chapter
Sponsor
Learning Labs, Inc.

Outstanding Chapter
Saluda Chapter
Sponsor
Southern States, Inc.

Outstanding President
Jeremy Holtzclaw
Sponsor
Massey Ferguson

Largest Membership Increase
Belton-Honea Path Chapter
Sponsor
Helena, Inc.

Largest Chapter Membership
Crescent Chapter
Sponsor
Helena, Inc.

Largest Convention Attendance
Lee County Chapter
Sponsor
Helena, Inc.

Outstanding Service
Bobby Sullivan
Central Chapter
Edsel Williamson
Britton's Neck Chapter
George Ulmer
Orangeburg Chapter
Melvin Crum
Orangeburg Chapter
Cleatus Bolt
Midland Valley Chapter
William Jameson
Edisto Chapter

Outstanding Horticulturalist
Brian Latimer
Belton-Honea Path Chapter
Sponsor
SC Nursery & Landscape Association

Outstanding Conservationist
Kathy Maye
Central Chapter
Sponsor
Santee Cooper

Energy Efficiency Award
Timothy Kelley
Crescent Chapter
Sponsor
Duke Energy, SCANA, Inc.

Farmer - Agribusiness Sponsors

Farm Shop
Jason H. Wright
Blue Ridge-Bonds Chapter
Sponsor
Hammond Tools & Fastners

Outstanding Beef Producer
William L. Bowman
Crescent Chapter
Sponsor
Kuhn Farm Equipment

Outstanding Swine Producer
Melvin Crum
Orangeburg Chapter
Sponsor
Orangeburg Foods

Peanut Production
William Jameson
Edisto Chapter
Sponsor
Birdsong Peanuts

Wheat Production
Brad Elliot
Green Sea-Floyds
Sponsor
Mixon Seed Company

Cotton Production
Kayla Player
Sponsor
Kelly Manufacturing Company

Soybean Production Non-Irrigated
Ernie Major
Belton-Honea Path Chapter
Sponsor
BASF Corporation

Corn Production Non-Irrigated
Brad Elliot
Green Sea-Floyds Chapter
Sponsor
Pioneer Hybrid International
And Monsanto

Corn Production-Irrigated
Al Dannelly
Edisto Chapter
Sponsor
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Other Sponsors

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Schaeffer's Specialized Lubricants
South Carolina Beef Board
South Carolina Pork Board
South Carolina Peanut Board
South Carolina Watermelon Association

FFA Soils Teams Headed to National Finals

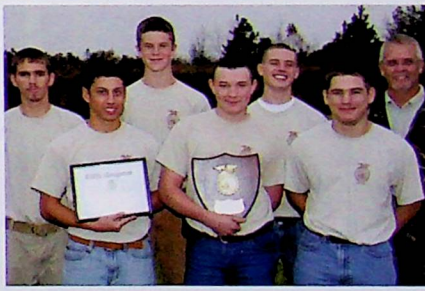
The **Thurmond Technology Center** FFA Soils Identification and Land Treatment team took top honors in the State Finals and will be accompanied by the State Runner-up **Lexington** team to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in May for the National Finals. The State Soils competition is sponsored by **Duke Energy, Progress Energy, SCANA, Inc.,** the **SC Conservation Districts Association** and **Foundation.**

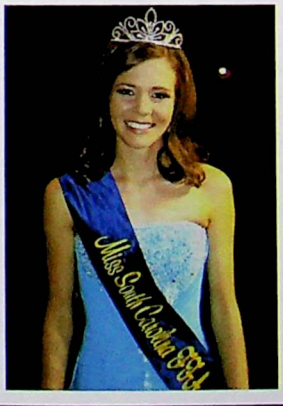
*Thurmond Technology Center FFA Advisor **Dan Henderson** (left) with team members **Ryan Burns, Dustin Lalonde** (third high scorer), **Gaurage Patel** and **Christian Speight**. Duke Energy official **Wayne Huddleston** is at right. **Ryan Burns** was awarded an engraved watch as second high scorer.*

*Lexington team members **Andi Massinello** (left), **Robert Calamas, Carey Blanton** and **Kaylon Meetze** with FFA Advisor **Tommy Harmon** and **Wayne Huddleston** with Duke Energy. **Carey Blanton** was awarded a trip to the National FFA Convention as high scorer in the event.*

***Union Career and Technology Center** FFA Advisor **Annette Vaughn** (left) with State Champion Equine Science Team members **Kristin Whitener, Hetti Millwood, Morgan Walker** and **Meredith Walker.** The team and advisor were awarded expense-paid trips by the SC FFA Foundation to attend the 2010 National FFA Convention and compete in the National Equine Finals. Meredith Walker was the high scorer and Kristin Whitener was the runner-up high scorer in the state event.*

***Pelion** FFA Wildlife Management Team members **Sammy Wilson** (left), **Matthew Kumangai, Andrew Snipes, Ben Baughman, Dillon Furtick** and **Dalton Mills** took first place honors in the State Finals. The team and Advisor **Frank Stover** were awarded trips to the 2010 National FFA Convention by **Piedmont Technical College.** Matthew Kumangai was the high scorer in the event.*





Walker Crowned Miss SC

Meredith Walker, a senior at Union High School and an FFA member, was crowned ***Miss South Carolina FFA*** at ceremonies in Batesburg-Leesville, SC, on March 5. Twenty eight young ladies who are members of the FFA from throughout the state competed in the pageant sponsored by the Batesburg-Leesville FFA Chapter. Miss Walker was awarded a $500 scholarship by AgSouth Farm Credit. Her FFA advisor is Mrs. **Annette Vaughan**.

SC FFA Chapters Receive Palmetto Pride Grants

Branchville, Green Sea-Floyds and **Pendleton** FFA Chapters were awarded *CHALLENGE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT* grants by the **Palmetto Pride Organization** at a ceremony in Columbia, SC, earlier this year. The funds will be used to construct a Fence Garden, purchase and plant River Birch trees and beautify the school campuses.

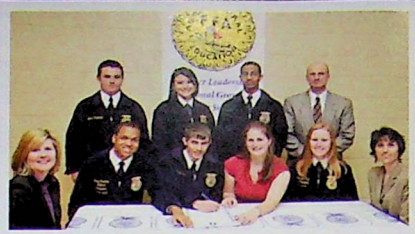
The cooperating Agricultural Educators are **Pat Black** at Branchville, **Lee Mayfield** at Green Sea-Floyds and **Blake Berry** at Pendleton.

Palmetto Pride Executive ***Linda Shadel*** *presents a check to FFA Advisor* ***Pat Black*** *and FFA officers* ***Dakota Gray, Benjamin Fogle*** *and* ***Shantel Butler***

Green Sea-Floyds FFA Advisor ***Lee Mayfield*** *shows the Palmetto Pride check to FFA Officers* ***Josh Collins, Ted Cox, Cody Strickland*** *and* ***Matthew Cooke.***

Palmetto Pride Executive ***Linda Shadel*** *presents FFA Advisor* ***Blake Berry*** *and FFA Officers* ***Tessa Weatherly*** *and* ***Troy Dobbins*** *a check. Pendleton High School Director of Public Relations* ***Harriett Smith*** *is at right.*

McBee FFA members ***Amber Lewis*** *(left),* ***Calin Jowers, Stephanie Sarkany, Zach Earle, Christy McCormick, Jordan Tiller, Halee Melton, Joseph McKenzie, Rebecca O'Neal*** *with* ***Mrs. JoAnn Williams,*** *President of the National Association of Young Farmer Education Association, in Mobile, Alabama. The McBee FFA members were one of only two groups in the nation selected to attend the National Young Farmer Conference and participate in the Young Agricultural Leadership Event and Agricultural Communications Program. McBee FFA Advisor Pat Earle accompanied the students.*



The **Swansea High School FFA Chapter** celebrated the signing of its National Charter at the Lexington County Farm-City Committee-sponsored National FFA Week Recognition Banquet at the Lexington Technology Center on February 25. Participants in the signing event are Swansea Principal **Mrs. Leslie Hightower** (left); National FFA President **Levy Randolph** of Hemet, California; FFA officer **Bo Burgess**; FFA Advisor **Ms. Clair Davenport**; State FFA President **Kerry Lee Cox** and Lexington School District Four Board Chairperson **Mrs. Shelia Parkman**. Standing (from left) are FFA members **Brad Parkman**, **Sarah Burgess** and **Jarvard Edmond.** Deputy Superintendent **Robert Maddox** is at right. The Swansea High School FFA is now a part of the 507,000 member National FFA Organization.

Clemson University *Collegiate FFA Board members for 2010 are (front left)* ***Sara Piper,*** *secretary;* ***Ashley King,*** *vice president;* ***Waylon Priester,*** *president;* ***Jacob Fravel,*** *reporter. In back (from left)* ***Wesley Robinson,*** *sentinel; and* ***Adam Gore,*** *treasurer.*

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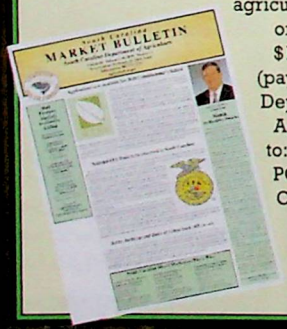

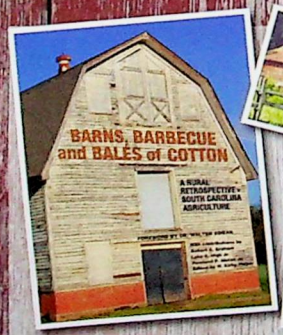

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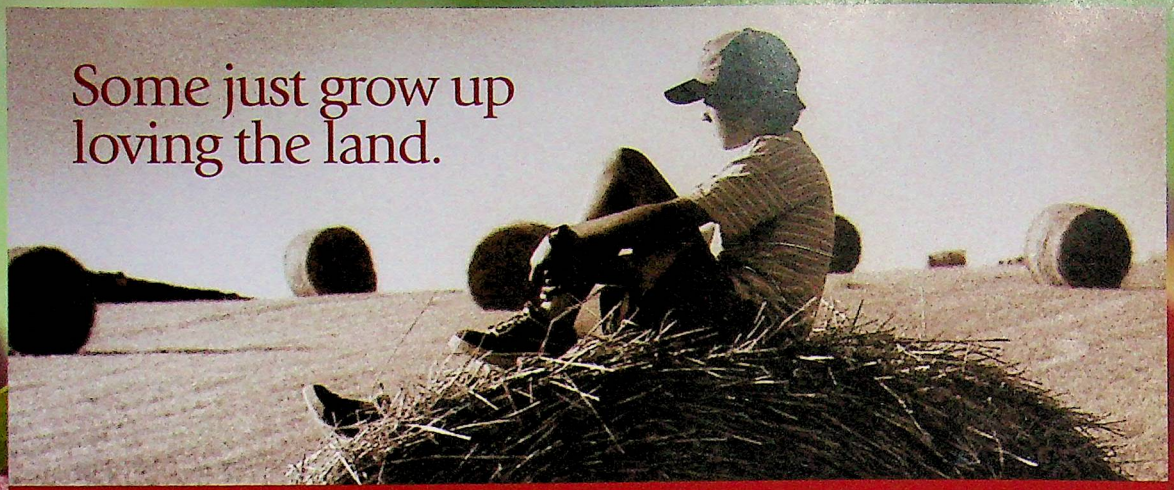

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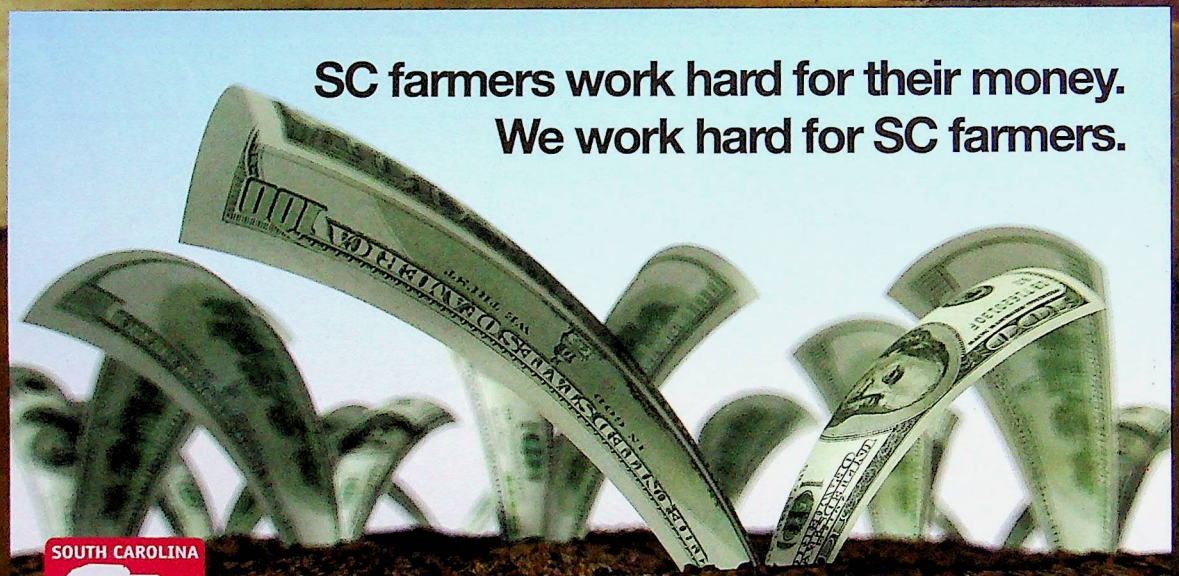

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